

REMARKS

This application was originally filed on December 28, 2000 with thirty claims, two of which were written in independent form. No claims have been allowed. Claims 8, 9, 14, and 21-30 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to non-elected subject matter.

Claim 1 was objected to for lacking antecedent basis. The applicant has amended Claim 1 to clarify that it is the transmissive entrance aperture portion that is referred to by the last line, and not for reasons of patentability.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaplan et al. ("Kaplan"). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner stated, "Kaplan shows in fig. 1 an integrating rod including an elongated body (12) with an entrance face which has a circular transmissive aperture (34) centered within a mirrored portion (24)"

To anticipate, a prior art reference must show each limitation as recited by the claim. Claim 1 recites "an entrance face on a first end of said elongated body" The entrance face with a circular transmissive aperture (34) of Kaplan clearly is not "on a first end of said elongated body" as recited by Claim 1. The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaplan is clearly defective and should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 5, 6, and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaplan. The applicant respectfully disagrees. Claims 2, 5, 6, and 15-20 depend from Claim 1 and should be deemed allowable for that reason and on their own merits. As argued above with respect to Claim 1, Kaplan does not show, teach, or suggest the recited elements of Claim 1, from which Claims 2, 5, 6, and 15-20 depend, much less the recited elements of Claim 1 in combination with the additional limitations of Claims 2, 5, 6, and 15-20.

Claims 3, 4, 7, and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaplan. The applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner has failed to make a prima facie case of obviousness. The Examiner has not pointed to any teaching in the prior art that would suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kaplan as suggested by the Examiner to achieve the limitations of Claims 3, 4, 7, and 10-13. Since no art has been cited, the rejection is defective and should be withdrawn. The Examiner is respectfully requested to either cite prior

art teachings or enter an affidavit stating such recited configurations were well known in the art at the time of the invention. With respect to Claim 7, the Examiner stated a metal reflecting layer would have been obvious to the ordinarily skilled artisan at the time of the invention in order to increase the reflectivity of the body's interior. The applicant respectfully points out that Claim 7 recites a "metal layer deposited on said entrance face." It is not apparent how a mirrored entrance aperture would increase the reflectivity of the body's interior as suggested by the Examiner.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented herewith, it is believed that the claims currently in the application, Claims 1-7, 10-13, and 15-20, accord with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, it is urged that Claims 1-7, 10-13, and 15-20 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles A. Brill
Reg. No. 37,786

Texas Instruments Incorporated
PO Box 655474 M/S 3999
Dallas, TX 75265
(972) 917-4379
FAX: (972) 917-4418

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (amended) An integrating rod comprised of:
 - an elongated body, said elongated body operable to reflect light traveling through said elongated body;
 - an entrance face on a first end of said elongated body; and
 - a mirrored entrance aperture at said entrance face, said mirrored entrance aperture having a transmissive entrance aperture portion and a mirrored portion, said mirrored entrance aperture allowing light to pass through the aperture thereof to enter the elongated body of said integrating rod, said mirrored entrance aperture operable to reflect light traveling through said elongated body to said entrance face that strikes said mirrored entrance aperture outside said transmissive entrance aperture portion.